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determined to admit additional members, and has selected from the candidates 74 gentlemen.

The report enters largely into the late resolve of the Society, to *purchase* their music, instead of having it as formerly.

"In the early part of the past year, the committee caused inquiries to be made of various music publishers as to the terms on which they would supply their several publications. Before concluding any negotiations, they made a similar inquiry of Mr. Surman (who had been accustomed to supply the society with music on hire), as respected the works published by him, which were chiefly those the society was in the habit of performing. He, however, in the first instance, refused to sell the society any of his publications; and subsequently required such terms, and sought to impose such conditions, as the committee would not be justified in acceding to; and they were therefore compelled to seek the necessary supply from others. Mr. J. A. Novello, with that readiness to serve the society which he has always manifested, at once agreed, not only to supply the society with his own publications on very advantageous terms, but to engrave and supply, on terms equally liberal, any works they might require to perform. Four of Handel's oratorios have accordingly been engraved, and supplied to the society by Mr. Novello at a price greatly below that required by Mr. Surman for works already engraved and published."

The Accounts shew receipts to the amount of £444. 1s., and the Society has realized in its finances a profit of about £250. It was resolved that the report and accounts should be printed.

A question of account between the society and their late conductor, next occupied the attention of the meeting; and the secretary read a voluminous mass of correspondence on the subject, extending over a period of ten months, which briefly resulted in this: that Mr. Brewer continually demanded Mr. Surman's account; and Mr. Surman, in reply, expressed his willingness to pay over the sums he had received, but confessing his inability to supply his account against the society, for several reasons; but Mr. Brewer declined to receive any money, unless a complete settlement was made at the same time; as the committee did not choose that Mr. Surman should have it in his power to say that the Society had dismissed him, at the same time being in his debt.

After this matter had undergone a long and exciting discussion,

The Rev. J. E. Cox rose, and said—Mr. Chairman, I came to this meeting this evening as a young member of the society; and, being the first meeting which I have attended, determined to judge impartially of the proceedings. I will candidly confess that I had a leaning towards Mr. Surman. I thought he had been, perhaps, rather harshly treated; but I am grieved to say I have witnessed with pain and indignation the exposure that he has made of himself this night. I do not consider or think that he has offered any satisfactory explanation to this meeting; and after what has now passed, I do not see how Mr. Surman can be retained as a member of the Sacred Harmonic Society. (Loud cheers.) I came here to endeavour to act as a mediator between Mr. Surman and the society; and, as you must suppose, as a member of my profession, my duty would be

"To throw oil upon the troubled waters;"

but I must return to my home satisfied that the society have been perfectly justified in the proceedings they have felt it necessary to take against Mr. Surman;

and feeling that his conduct on this occasion deserves to be severely reprobated, I beg to move the following resolution:—

"Resolved,—That after the explanation given by the secretary, of the correspondence which has passed between Mr. Surman and himself, that Mr. Surman be no longer considered a member of the society; and that the members of this meeting express their strongest disapprobation of the conduct pursued by Mr. Surman in that correspondence with the secretary, and also at this meeting."

Which resolution was carried, with only eight dissentients.

It was then proposed and carried, with only one dissentient, beside Mr. Surman himself, "That Mr. Surman be required *now* to produce his accounts." Mr. Surman refusing, the matter was referred to the committee, to deal with it as they may be advised. It was then proposed and carried unanimously, that Mr. Surman being no longer a member of the society, he be requested to withdraw.

After this unpleasant business, the meeting proceeded to the re-election of officers, and votes of thanks to those who had served them faithfully. Mr. Winsor took the opportunity of informing the members that Mr. Perry, their late leader, had requested him to thank them for the very flattering testimonial which he, Mr. Winsor, had presented to Mr. Perry last night, in the names of two hundred gentlemen connected with the society—a testimonial of their esteem and respect—sentiments engendered towards him during the sixteen years he had occupied the gratuitous post of leader. [*Abridged from the Musical World.*]

Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MUSICIANS.—At the general meeting of this society after the re-election of the officers, the sum of £50 was voted, to be distributed amongst distressed persons connected with the musical profession, having no claim on the funds of the society. The sum of £2454 was appropriated during the last year to the laudable purposes for which the institution was established in 1738.

THE CHORAL FUND.—It is with regret that we hear that the income of this charity has much fallen off of late years, which is the more to be lamented from the circumstances of those whose necessities are relieved by it. The choral body have made most noble efforts by individual contributions and services, to maintain this institution; but they come seldom in contact with wealthy supporters; and we should be highly gratified if the attention of any who could afford a donation should be drawn to the claims of this excellent charity. The members get up a grand concert every year, for the benefit of the funds, to which all donors and subscribers have admission.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, EXETER HALL.—This society has given Handel's *Judas Maccabæus* twice during the last month, with better effect than perhaps has ever been previously produced by this great work. The original full score, as Handel left it, is for a small orchestra, with figures for the thorough-bass, which Handel used himself to fill up at the harpsichord. Additional wind and viola parts were added for the society's late performances, by Mr. Vincent Novello, who brought his long experience of the oratorio school to aid him in making these additions as nearly as pos-

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BRIEF CHRONICLE (Continued from Page 109).

sible what Handel might probably have added, had he had at his command the society's present orchestral and vocal strength. The result of the combination under the able conduct of Signor Costa appears to have given very general satisfaction.

SIR HENRY BISHOP'S FIRST LECTURE at the Whittington Club was attended by the largest audience yet collected in the great room of the institution. The silent attention with which his remarks were listened to throughout, and the approbation bestowed upon the illustrations by the very crowded auditory, is confirmatory of the view taken by the musical critic of the *Athenæum* newspaper, whose article we quote, (p. 107); and it will be found that managers and committees seldom err when they address themselves to the better taste of the public. The next lecture, which takes place to-day (Feb. 1), will doubtless be equally well attended; it cannot be better, as the room was full in every part on the 25th.

MUSICAL LECTURES AND CHORAL CONCERTS are becoming so general in the provincial towns, that our kind correspondents must excuse our not having space in all cases to use their communications. We may mention amongst those tending to improve the local taste and draw attention to music.—A lecture by Mr. J. Coggins at the FALMOUTH *Athenæum*, with illustrations of Sacred music.—From TRURO, we hear of a sacred and secular concert under the direction of Mr. Hemple, and the probable formation of a philharmonic society of amateur instrumentalists.—From BRISTOL, of a lecture on "The genius of popular and national music," by Mr. Wehrhan, with national musical illustrations sung by twenty-four singers.—From WAKEFIELD, of the Philharmonic Society presenting to Edward White, Esq., a handsomely bound copy of *Elijah*, as a token of esteem, and for conducting the oratorio of *St. Paul*.—From SELKIRK, of the Wilhelm Choral Society celebrating their first anniversary, and presenting three volumes (*Weber's Composition and Hullah's Grammar*) to George Lewis, Esq.—From WHITEHAVEN, our correspondent F. B. gives us a pleasant, but unfortunately lengthy picture of the agreeable evening he spent on new year's day, where selections from Haydn's Masses, Nos. 2 & 3, and Mozart's, Nos. 1, 2, & 12, with many of the pieces from our own pages, formed the staple amusements of the evening, whereby he and all the rest (listeners being in the minority,) prepared themselves to do justice to a most excellent supper.—Nearer home we hear of the ladies of THE POPLAR HARMONIC SOCIETY presenting Mr. Charles Robinson with a handsome dressing-case for his gratuitous services, as leader of the society. Many readers will glance over these slight records; but when we think what pleasure has been given to thousands by these and similar meetings, the very fact of their being too numerous to record is in itself highly gratifying.

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